

Drama News and Reviews

G. Cooper and Sub Chaser Are Amusing Comedy Team

By Jay Carmody

Gary Cooper and an experimental submarine chaser are a comedy pair you would not want to miss in "You're in the Navy Now," which opened yesterday at the Palace.

Their misadventures are funnier than some of the ad libs that sneaked into television during the recent Gen. Douglas MacArthur excitement. This, as no one should need to be told, is pretty close to hilarious.

The 20th Century-Fox production which sheds such a humorous light on at least one small side of war is based upon an anecdote which Washington's John W. Hazard wrote some time ago for the New Yorker magazine. Film rights were purchased before the ink was dry on the first proofs of the story, a genuinely flattering commentary on 20th C-F's literary taste.

Somebody out there knows a joke when he reads it even when it is not actually like all other jokes.

Cooper's subdued style lifts it to the level of something special in screen comedy by carrying it artfully across stretches of definite bog.

Hazard's original piece was called "The U.S.S. Teakettle." This was the nickname of a ludicrous small ship and the woefully embarrassed crew that put her through a series of tests with a special type of steam powerplant. The idea was that if the experimental steam engine could be made to work, sub chasers would be 10 knots faster.

If it did not work, which it did not for endless trial runs, there was always the prospect that the crew would be blown to Hades, become a sitting duck for an enemy submarine, or be left to sit out the war in some wave trough of the coast of Virginia.

As compared with the Teakettle, the Kom-Tiki of recent literary fame was as safe as a ship's model in a naval museum.

What made the story of the Teakettle more splendidly ridiculous than ever was its crew, of which Cooper plays the hapless skipper. Being sensible, in its military-minded way, the Navy naturally could not bother to assemble a seaworthy crew for the Teakettle tests. It took them job lot, from the civilian enlistees, officers and men. These could not have been more flabbergasted by their assignment than a corner loafer suddenly asked to work out a dispersal plan for Government personnel in Washington.

Most of the action of the film directed by Henry Hathaway is confined to the U. S. S. 1168, the ship's serial number. This is as it should be for no place could be funnier than any corner of this desperately misnamed vessel, especially in her engine room.

THE CAST
John Harkness Gary Cooper
Larabee Millard Mitchell
Lt. Bill Barron Eddie Albert
Commander Reynolds John McIntire
Captain Elliot Harry Von Zell
Ensign Anthony Barbo Jack Webb
Ensign Chuck Dorrance Richard Erdman
Ensign Lembeck Henry Blake
Commander Admiral Ed Bestor
Ensign Pay Boone
Ensign Charles Pay Boone
Ensign Jack Ward
Ensign Ken Harvey Lee Martin
Ensign Jerry Hansen Charles Smith
Ensign Shore Patrimen Glen Gordon
Ensign Hugo Doctor Damian O'Flynn

Here amid the wicked looking boilers, pipes, pressure gauges, mysterious valves the novice skipper and his crew play their patriotism with a series of humiliations almost beyond endurance. Being towed back to Norfolk naval base from trial run after trial run ultimately becomes a fate worse than being blown up in the Atlantic. In the case of the latter, Capt. Cooper and his men would at least escape the jibes of their fellow seamen.

Hathaway, Cooper and an enthusiastic cast including Millard Mitchell, Jack Webb, and Eddie Albert, keep the flavor of "You're in the Navy Now" both human and hilarious. Oddly enough, they are able to keep the story moving when the Teakettle is firmly refusing to budge without a tow rope. This requires the occasional injection of bits of business made familiar by other films, but these are handled well.

Even the scripts romantic cliché, in which Jane Greer plays the wave wife of Skipper Cooper, is treated with some degree of freshness. This is quite a test, but one fitting for the picture which reaches such a dizzy comic climax as this one. In this final sequence, the Teakettle not only runs at breakneck speed but frees her throttles at the wide open position, with the threat of running ashore as far inland as, say Ohio. The Palace picture could well be your dish of tea this week end, or maybe next, unless you have something irresistibly special on.

Bulletin board: Erica Thimney's dance group will present "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" at Roosevelt High School auditorium tomorrow under the auspices of the American Association of University Women. The performance is set for 2:30. . . . Kay De Wit's successor as vocalist at the Capitol Theater is Marian Klatta, Eastern High School alumna, and a graduate of several "Going Native" revues. . . . "Outward Bound," Sutton Vane's fantasy-comedy, will be the third and final production of the Kensington Players' season, May 3-5. . . . Kensington Junior High School auditorium will be the scene of the three performances, which are being directed by Mrs. Gertrude Gantz. . . . Kensington drama notes: "The Belle of the West" will be presented as the annual spring operetta of the Kensington Junior High School students tonight and tomorrow night.



Thank You, Miss Main

Ma Kettle Makes Some Thin Jokes A Lot Funnier

"MA AND PA KETTLE BACK ON THE FARM," a Universal picture, produced by Leonard Goldstein, directed by Edward Sedgwick, story and screenplay by Jack Henley, At the Capitol.

By Harry MacArthur
Ma and Pa Kettle came back to town yesterday, though their return may have gone virtually unnoticed, with one thing and another. Their vehicle this time is titled, not with any startling show of imagination, "Ma and Pa Kettle Back on the Farm" and you'll find it at the Capitol.

Two things are made fairly clear by the new adventure of the Kettles, who mushroomed into a serial out of an appearance in "The Egg and I." One is that the joke about the family life of the Kettles and their offspring is growing a little thin and the other is that Majorie Main is such a funny woman that it doesn't make much difference how thin the joke is.

Ma and Pa are involved this time, give Writer Jack Henley credit, in two full-fledged plots. One of them revolves around the arrival of their first grandchild, an event which also brings with it a great deal of mother-in-law trouble. Question: Will Kim Kettle pack up her offspring and take off for Boston with her mother?

The other plot concerns Pa's discovery one afternoon that he seems to be radioactive and his accompanying assumption that the old farm is loaded with uranium ore. Question: Will the two city slickers who turn up with a creaking Geiger-counter do Ma and Pa out of their rightful wealth?

There shouldn't be much doubt about the ultimate solution of either problem. Director Edward Sedgwick has seen to it, however, that the path to the ultimate and (to quote the great James Duran) forlorn conclusion, is studied with the usual accoutrements of life at the Kettles. These include folding beds, pigs in the parlor, collapsing chicken houses, Indian dances, explosions and a fine cross-country chase in a semile automobile.

Miss Main, with some help from Percy Kilbride, will see that you stay awake, too.

PARIS WAS GAY—At the time of "Lady Paname," which opens today at the Dupont Theater with Louis Jouvet as its male star. Cozy Delair plays the merry girl.

Where and When

Current Screen Attractions and Time of Showing

Stage.
Arenas—"The Glass Menagerie," 8:30 p.m.
New Gayety—"Oklahoma!," 8:30 p.m.

Screen.
Ambassador—"The Lemon Drop Kid," 1:25, 3:25, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:40 p.m.

Capitol—"Ma and Pa Kettle Back on the Farm," 11:00 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:15 and 10:00 p.m.
Stage shows: 3:45, 6:30 and 9:15 p.m.

Columbia—"Three Guys Named Mike," 11:35 a.m., 1:35, 3:35, 5:40, 7:40 and 9:45 p.m.

Dupont—"Lady Paname," 1:10, 3:20, 5:25, 7:35 and 9:45 p.m.

Keith's—"My Forbidden Past," 11:50 a.m., 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50 and 9:55 p.m.

Little—"Quartet," 2:30, 5:55 and 9:25 p.m.

Metropolitan—"Valentino," 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40 and 9:45 p.m.

National—"Kim," 11:20 a.m., 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20 and 9:20 p.m.

Palace—"You're in the Navy Now," 11:30 a.m., 1:35, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45 and 9:50 p.m.

Pix—"Strip-tease Murder Case," 2:15, 5:00, 7:40 and 10:25 p.m.

Playhouse—"Tales of Hoffmann," 2:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Plaza—"The Mudlark," 11:00 a.m., 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40 and 10:00 p.m.

Trans-Lux—"No Orchids for Miss Blandish," 11:30 a.m., 1:35, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45 and 9:50 p.m.

Warner—"The Lemon Drop Kid," 11:25 a.m., 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45 and 9:50 p.m.

AMUSEMENTS.

SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF BARBER SHOP QUARTET SINGING IN AMERICA



BUFFALO BILLS Buffalo, New York
International Champions, 1950

MID-STATES FOUR Chicago, Illinois
International Champions, 1949

Seven Other Fine Quartets
AND THE SINGING CAPITAL CHORUS
Dr. Robert Howe Harmon, Director
Constitution Hall—Fri., April 27—8:30 P.M. \$3, \$2.40, \$1.80, \$1.20
SNOW CONCERT BUREAU, 1108 G Street N.W.
(Campbell Music Co.) RE. 4433

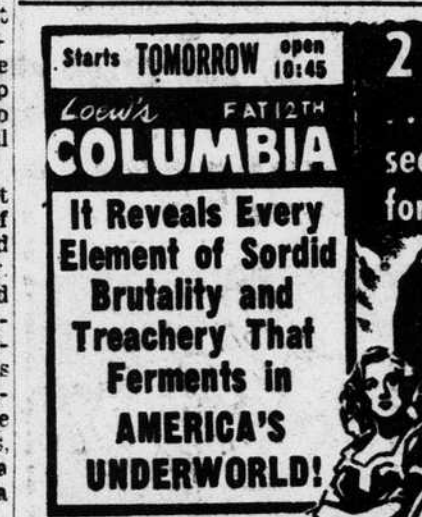


SEE THIS PICTURE WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE VERY, VERY MUCH...
I'd climb the Highest Mountain
TECHNICOLOR
SUSAN HAYWARD
WILLIAM LUNDIGAN
3 DAYS—SAT., SUN. & MON.
DOORS OPEN SAT. & SUN. 12:30 P.M.
AMPLE FREE PARKING
Roth's PARK
SAVANNAH & 14TH, S.E.

Julian Huxley Speaks On Human Personality

Julian Huxley, biologist and humanist, last night urged adaptation of "our system of thought to the present situation." Dr. Huxley told an audience at the Interior Department Auditorium that the present world situation is causing the rise of a system he said could be called "transhumanism" because it represents the human personality trying to transcend itself.

His address was the first of a two-session lecture on "Knowledge, Morality and Destiny" and the third of the William Alanson White Memorial lectures. Dr. Huxley will conclude his talks at 8:30 o'clock tonight at the auditorium.

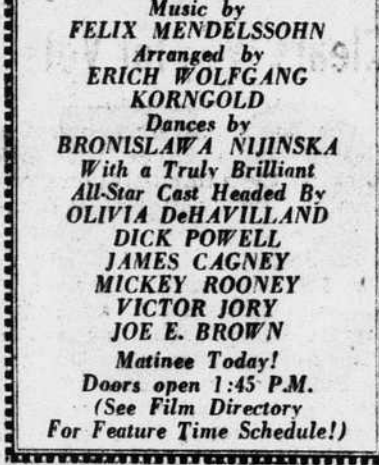


Ends Today, Jane WYMAN-Van JOHNSON-Howard KEEL
COLUMBIA Barry SULLIVAN-THREE GUYS NAMED MIKE

The Intimate Behind-the-Scenes Story of the Man So Many Women Loved

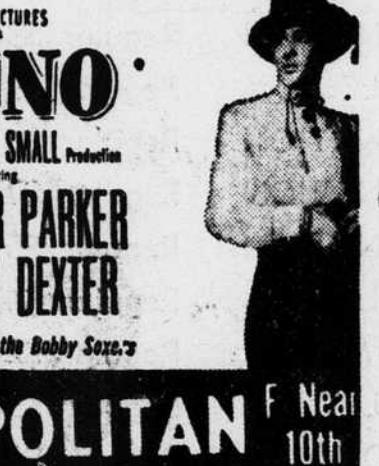
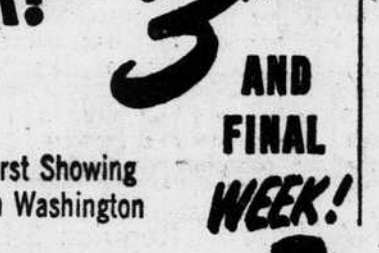


Not a Valentino Re-issue
new romantic ideal of the Bobby Soxers
Warner Bros. METROPOLITAN F Near 10th



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